



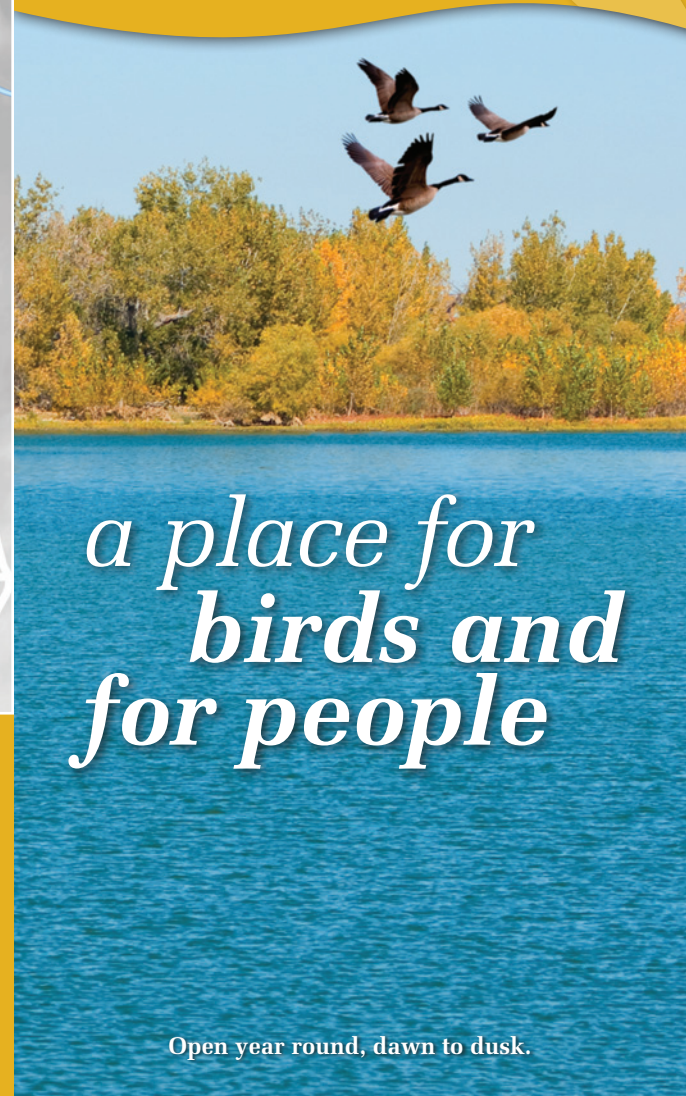
North

0 0.25 0.5 Mile

Fossil Creek Reservoir Regional Open Space



CITY OF FORT COLLINS FOSSIL CREEK RESERVOIR REGIONAL OPEN SPACE



*a place for
birds and
for people*

THANK YOU!

Thank you Fort Collins and Larimer County voters! Your citizen-initiated sales tax dollars conserved this land and provides funds for trails, picnic shelters, restrooms, parking lots, and programs.



www.fcgov.com/naturalareas

Natural Areas Department 970-416-2815

Life-threatening emergency 911

Guided nature walk 970-416-2480

or naturalareas@fcgov.com

naturally yours

♻️ MARCH 2013



naturally yours



FOSSIL CREEK RESERVOIR IS FOR THE BIRDS!

Designated an *Important Bird Area* (IBA) by the National Audubon Society means that this natural area provides essential habitat for breeding, wintering, and migrating birds. Check out the board near the restrooms for recent wildlife sightings—and add yours! The trailside signs provide clues to bird identification and Fort Collins Audubon Society provides a handy checklist of birds just for Fossil Creek Reservoir. Look for it at the trailhead kiosk.



BIRDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Spring brings the most bird activity to Fossil Creek Reservoir. Many birds arrive to nest; others rest, refuel, and continue their journeys north. Year-round residents also prepare for nesting. Males proclaim territories with loud songs and vibrant plumages. Listen for meadowlarks and yellow warblers—they seem to sing all day! Cattails provide nest sites for red-winged blackbirds and many kinds of ducks.

The heat of summer means it's quiet in the middle of the day. Try visiting at dawn and dusk to glimpse birds feeding, flying, and singing.

In the fall, birds are on the move again: heading south or arriving from the north to stay for the winter. Birds spend lots of time eating to fatten up for their travels or for the coming winter weather.

Winter is bald eagle season! Bald eagles roost at night in the cottonwood trees and hunt for fish and waterfowl during the day. Look for them on the ice searching for a meal—a dead duck is just right. Huge flocks of Canada geese feast on abundant grains in nearby fields, while ducks keep portions of the reservoir ice-free as they paddle about.

PLEASE STAY ON TRAILS

The priority here is to protect the habitat and the wildlife that depends on it. Water sports, dogs, horses, and bikers disturb these. Please stay on the trails. This is a big place so bring your binoculars or scope for a better look from the trail system. The Carpenter Road Trail is open to multiple uses.

Visit www.fcgov.com/naturalareas/finder to discover many natural areas with a variety of recreation opportunities.



© Theo Bauder

ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

The City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department provides educational programs here year round. Visit www.fcgov.com/naturalareas for details.

SPRING

Spring is a great time for scouts or school groups to visit. Certified Master Naturalists provide hands-on activities and lots of fun.

SUMMER

The skies are wide open here—good for watching raptors, sunsets, and stars. Astronomy and pre-school programs are part of the summer happenings.

FALL

Hikes to the viewing blinds, fantastic views of the mountains, quiet evenings, and cooler days are all perfect for a fall outing. Call us to schedule your group today.

WINTER

Eagle Watch programs are held December–February. Join Master Naturalist educators to look through powerful telescopes, count eagles, watch their behavior, and learn about their habits.

© Francoise Smith